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PICTURES BELOVED BELGIUM  
Remarkable series of etchings by Van der  
Loo, the great Belgian etcher. First of  
his work to appear in this country.  
IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SUN



THE WEATHER FORECAST.  
Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow unset-  
tled and colder.  
Highest temperature yesterday, 54; lowest, 38.  
Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 13.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

## WOOD INDICTED; HOTEL BILLS GO TO JURY TO-DAY

Ex-Public Service Member  
Accused of Asking  
Bribe.

## BILTMORE VOUCHERS READY TO BE SHOWN

Thompson Not Accused,  
but Committee Official  
Faces Charges.

## LEGISLATURE SHIFTS FRONT ON INQUIRY

Assembly Committee Now  
Favors Free Hand for  
P. S. Investigators.

An indictment was returned yesterday against Robert Colgate Wood, former Public Service Commissioner, on a charge of soliciting a \$5,000 bribe from the Union Switch and Signal Company of Swissvale, Pa. The indictment grows out of disclosures made before the Thompson committee, investigating the Public Service Commission. Wood pleaded "not guilty" and was admitted to \$7,500 bail.

The Grand Jury probably will return an indictment against some person connected with the Thompson committee because of the Hotel Biltmore account. The original vouchers, thought to be destroyed, were found yesterday.

Senator George F. Thompson is to be permitted to come back to New York city and pursue the "warm trail" he asserts he was following into public service corporations for a month longer. The Senator and his committee will return to-day.

Assemblyman McQuinn's resolution on an investigation into the bookkeeping of all committees has been turned into a measure which may authorize the Legislature to pass finally on all disputed bills.

Hamilton Fish, Jr., Progressive Assemblyman from Putnam county, attacked the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which, he declared, was a disgrace and a dishonor to the State. He said the committee had spent \$5,000 in eight days.

## R. C. WOOD INDICTED ON BRIBE CHARGE

Ex-Public Service Commissioner  
Accused of Soliciting \$5,000  
for Contract.

Former Public Service Commissioner Robert Colgate Wood was indicted yesterday on a charge of having solicited a bribe for his influence in swinging to the Union Switch and Signal Company of Swissvale, Pa. the contract for installing a signal system in the Centre street loop of the new subway system. He pleaded not guilty and was released in \$7,500 bail.

The December Grand Jury, which had been continued to investigate this charge, has been examining witnesses since December 15, when Sidney G. Johnson, former vice-president of the Union company, made his startling disclosure before the Thompson legislative committee.

District Attorney Perkins began the investigation, but hesitated to ask for an indictment because of his theory that Johnson was an accomplice of Wood and that corroborative testimony would therefore be necessary. The theory of District Attorney Swann is that Johnson was not an accomplice and also that there is sufficient corroborative testimony to justify the indictment.

Secretary Travis H. Whitney of the Public Service Commission testified that he understood that Commissioner Wood asked him to contract matter be referred to him.

Justice Mulqueen of General Sessions, who received the indictment, issued a bench warrant for Wood's arrest immediately, but before it was served the former Commissioner, accompanied by William M. Parke of Stanchfield & Levy, attorneys, had secured the release of Wood for him, with leave to withdraw to amend this plea within a week. Parke was furnished by the National Surety Company, and Mr. Wood nor his counsel would comment on the indictment.

Telegraph Told Story First.

Walter D. Lutz, president of the Union Switch and Signal Company, first told the story of the alleged attempt to bribe Johnson confirmed what Upton Sinclair reported, said Col. Henry G. Profit, former president of the company; John H. McCune and S. O. Levinson, directors.

Johnson testified that while the award of the signal contract was being made in June, 1914, Wood, the hearing Commissioner, summoned him to 43 Exchange place, which was Wood's place of business before his appointment. He described the condition of the office and a young man employed there who was asked to leave. He testified that Wood was having the valuation of the Commissioner the latter urged him to let him have the influence, if

## U. S. Steel Common Again Pays 5 Per Cent. Dividend

Old Basis Is Restored on \$508,000,000 of Stock—Quarterly Report Shows High Record Set in Huge Earnings of Corporation.

## FINANCIAL CIRCLES CIRCLE BY THE NEWS.

The directors of the United States Steel Corporation did yesterday what Wall Street has been hoping for weeks that they would do. They resumed the regular dividend payments on the \$508,000,000 common stock of the corporation by the declaration of a dividend of 14 per cent. for the quarter ended December 31, 1915, thereby placing the common stock on a 5 per cent. per annum basis once more. They also made public the earnings for the quarter, the largest in the history of the corporation, showing a total earnings for the three months ended December 31 of \$51,228,788, or \$5,729,084 in excess of those of any other previous quarter. In addition to this they announced that the Steel Corporation has on deposit in banks \$105,000,000 in cash.

Following this announcement Wall Street had no doubts that the United States Steel Corporation had come back into its own once more, that business was booming, that all the rumors of big orders at high prices and an improved outlook for the future were true and from office boys to bank presidents every denier of the canyons of the financial district went home last night feeling that all was well in the world once more.

Aside from being the most remarkable earnings statement for any quarter which the Steel Corporation has ever put forth it was also remarkable in that it showed conclusively how the steel industry of the country has "come back" from a period of the deepest depression to one of the rosier of prosperity. A year ago the Steel Corporation quarterly report showed a surplus of only \$48,473 available for dividends on the common stock out of the \$508,000,000 of stock, against nothing a year ago. Thus the balance available for dividends on the common stock for the December quarter of 1915 was \$51,228,788, or \$5,729,084 in excess of those of any other previous quarter. In addition to this they announced that the Steel Corporation has on deposit in banks \$105,000,000 in cash.

Yesterday the corporation's statement showed that after the payment of the preferred dividend there was \$29,654,473 available for dividends on the common stock out of the \$508,000,000 of stock, against nothing a year ago. Thus the balance available for dividends on the common stock for the December quarter of 1915 was \$51,228,788, or \$5,729,084 in excess of those of any other previous quarter. In addition to this they announced that the Steel Corporation has on deposit in banks \$105,000,000 in cash.

Besides showing total earnings for the months of October, November and December of \$51,228,788, the corporation also showed a surplus of \$51,228,788, or \$5,729,084 in excess of those of any other previous quarter. In addition to this they announced that the Steel Corporation has on deposit in banks \$105,000,000 in cash.

The earnings of the United States Steel Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1915, based upon the four quarterly reports which have been issued during the twelve months, do not make as favorable a showing when compared with the earnings of the corporation for the year ended December 31, 1914, as they do when compared with the earnings of the corporation for the year ended December 31, 1913.

The following table gives the earnings of the United States Steel Corporation for the years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917, based upon the four quarterly reports which have been issued during the twelve months, do not make as favorable a showing when compared with the earnings of the corporation for the year ended December 31, 1914, as they do when compared with the earnings of the corporation for the year ended December 31, 1913.

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## SPEND BILLIONS FOR DEFENCE, SAYS MANN

Republican Leader Sees U. S. in Danger of War After Present Conflict.

## FOR BIG ARMY AND NAVY PARTY MAY BE WRECKED

Tells House He Looks for Trouble With England Before Germany.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Representative James R. Mann of Illinois, the Republican leader, in a speech in the House today expressed the opinion that the United States is likely to be called to defend itself at the close of the present war. He urged Congress to make large appropriations for the army and navy and enact legislation which will enable American industry to supply the Government needs in the event of war.

Mr. Mann, who has heretofore opposed increased armaments, spoke with great deliberation, and as he urged that the question of national defense be treated in a non-partisan way he was applauded by members of the House.

Mr. Mann started some members when he declared that with Great Britain and the United States, Germany would be likely to start a third world war.

"We can better afford," said Mr. Mann, "to spend billions of dollars on a few billions of dollars in armaments than to wait until we are finally victorious, as we would be."

Congress should act now. Mr. Mann dwelt with emphasis on his argument that the Government should mobilize its industrial resources against the possibility of war.

He said it was the duty of Congress to enact legislation without delay that would establish industries on a basis that would make this country absolutely independent for all supplies in case should ever be called upon to defend itself.

Mr. Mann expressed the belief that the European war would continue for years and that no one could foresee what emergency would confront the United States when that conflict came to an end.

"I do not know, and no one knows," he said, "whether the world will be a better place for the introduction of compulsion in the workshops."

He declared that the Labor Ministers must withdraw from the Government's split in the party is inevitable and the three Ministers must be removed from the Government.

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## Germany Again Fails to Meet Lusitania Demands

Refuses to Admit Her Submarine Warfare Is Illegal as U. S. Insists—Secretary Lansing Rejects the Proposal—Another Conference To-day.

## PETROLITE NOTE TO GO TO AUSTRIA SOON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Germany has again failed in express terms to meet the demands of the United States for a settlement of the Lusitania controversy.

Count von Bernstorff was so informed at a conference which he had this afternoon with Secretary Lansing. While the Ambassador expects to confer again to-morrow with the Secretary, it is not now expected that anything approaching a definite understanding can be reached until after the embassy has received further instructions from Berlin.

Though the latest exchange of views has failed to bring about an agreement between the two Governments, both at the State Department and at the embassy confidence was expressed that a basis of settlement would be reached in the near future.

It was learned to-night that the stumbling block consists in the unwillingness of the German Government to admit that the course of her submarine warfare at the time the Lusitania was destroyed was illegal. Though willing to pay indemnity for the lives of the Americans who were lost, the German Government wishes to pay the indemnity as an act of grace, rather than upon any admission of wrongdoing.

A Critical Point.

To admit that the attack on the Lusitania was illegal, the German Government contends, would involve an admission that the entire submarine campaign launched against British shipping was a reprisal was illegal.

It also would be tantamount, it is contended, to an admission in toto of the claims of the American Government that a neutral citizen surrenders none of his rights by travelling through a war zone on merchant ships of a belligerent Power.

To this view the United States has refused absolutely to defer. Its position in this respect has not altered one iota since the beginning of the hostilities. Negotiations between the Ambassador and the Secretary of State, from the first Secretary Lansing has insisted that Germany should accept the legality of the act and make amends accordingly.

Time and again Count von Bernstorff, it is said, has submitted the proposition of his Government in varying forms, but each time the Secretary has detected an effort to avoid the satisfaction demanded, though with great success.

The position of the United States throughout the submarine controversy, however, has been that under no circumstances should a submarine be used to sink a merchant ship without warning and without the crew and passengers and other non-combatants are still on board.

In the light of what is known of the Lusitania's stand on the point just at issue in the Lusitania controversy, therefore, officials find it easier to explain the report that the State Department has refused to accept the German proposals to the same extent unsatisfactory.

It is understood that in the next note to Germany the United States will demand that the German Government should include a demand for satisfaction in the case of the American oil ship Petrolite, which recently returned to the United States after a harrowing experience with the Austrian submarine in the Mediterranean.

One of Crew Injured.

According to affidavits in possession of the Department the submarine commander, who was injured, was taken to the hospital and is now recovering from his wounds.

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## SWEDEN GIVES WARNING SHE MAY ENTER WAR

Premier Tells the Riksdag Neutrality Cannot Survive Infringement of Rights.

## BELIEVED TO BE THREAT TO BRITAIN

Declaration Made on Eve of Great Debate in Commons.

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 25.—On the eve of the debate in the British Parliament regarding the contemplated declaration of a formal blockade against Germany, Premier Hammarskjöld served warning in the Swedish Riksdag to-day that Swedish neutrality must not be expected to survive continued interference with the rights of this country under international law.

The Premier's warning is a clear enunciation of the principle hinted at in the King's speech from the throne a week ago that Sweden will not remain quiescent if her commerce is interfered with to a great extent by the belligerents.

Premier Hammarskjöld made his declaration in reply to speeches by several members of the Riksdag who dwelt on the desire of the Swedish people for continued neutrality.

This was declared by the Premier to be the policy of the Government.

Idea that our policy means we will not abandon neutrality under any conditions, it is our fervent desire to keep peace and it is our duty to work for this end with all our might, but we must also reckon with eventualities in which the maintenance of peace, in spite of all our efforts, would no longer be possible.

Sweden has endeavored constantly to cooperate with other neutrals, particularly Germany, in order to promote common aims. In these efforts Sweden has been successful to a considerable degree.

We regret that these united efforts for the rights and welfare of neutrals Powers and for the preservation, as mentioned in the speech from the throne, of the peaceful and lawful economic and political dependence.

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